

HAVE POULTRY?

Tips for Keeping Your Birds Healthy

Biosecurity For The Birds

(NAPS)—Many poultry diseases are highly contagious and can spread from bird to bird quickly with devastating results. For example, in 2003, in the western United States, tens of thousands of birds, including backyard flocks and pet birds, were wiped out by exotic Newcastle disease (END). Because of this, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is asking poultry and bird owners to practice good “biosecurity” with their birds.

Biosecurity means taking the steps necessary to prevent the spread of disease among livestock and pets. USDA is asking bird owners, whether they own backyard chickens or exotic birds, to follow some basic steps to ensure that disease does not spread to their birds.

There are three main steps to follow:

1) Restrict traffic onto and off your property; disinfect shoes and clothes and thoroughly wash your hands to prevent the spread of disease; and don't borrow tools or equipment without completely disinfecting them. 2) know the signs of disease, such as odd behavior or sudden death of flock members. 3) If you suspect anything is wrong, report sick birds to your veterinarian, cooperative extension office or to USDA veterinarian by calling 1-866-536-7593.

A first step could be to clip this handy guide to biosecurity and post it near your birds. You can also visit the biosecurity Web site for more information (www.aphis.usda.gov/vs).



*You are
the best
protection
your birds
have.*

Practice Biosecurity

- Wash hands—everyone near your birds should wash their hands before and after leaving the birds.
- Limit contact with other birds and poultry owners and their tools and property
- Disinfect your cars and trucks, cages, equipment after every bird event



Look

- Look for unusual behavior in your flock or sudden deaths of one or more birds.



Report

- Don't be afraid to report any suspicious signs to your veterinarian, cooperative extension office or call the USDA Veterinary Services office at 1-866-536-7593.

